**Unit 7 Handout 1: Stimulus Materials**

**A. Stimulus Packet Documents**

1. “Have You Renounced Pleasure?” from The Book of Joy by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams

2. “On Virtue and Happiness,” from Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill

3. “High income improves evaluation of life but not emotional well-being,” from Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA (PNAS)

4. “Big Daddy’s Last Dance” video

5. “Genes, Economics, and Happiness” from Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics

6. “The Story of An Hour” by Kate Chopin

7. “The Happiness Project,” from T: The New York Times Style Magazine by Andrew O’Hagan

**B. Analyzation**

**Source A: “Have You Renounced Pleasure?” from The Book of Joy by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams**

1. *From whose point of view was this chapter written?*
2. *What is the main idea of this chapter?*
3. *What is the most important information in the chapter? (Line of reasoning?)*
4. *What is the main assumption(s) underlying the authors’ thinking is? (What is the author taking for granted? That might be questioned?)*
5. *What consequences are likely to follow if people take the authors’ line of reasoning seriously?*
6. *What are your reactions to this argument? Are you convinced? Why or why not?*
7. *How does the author establish authority/credibility?*
8. *How does the author’s overall style aid their argument? (Think about the overall tone, how the authors form sentences or choose words, the length of passages, etc. Cite specific examples.)*
9. *Read:* [*https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/apr/15/dalai-lama-and-desmond-tutu-collaborate-on-book-of-joy*](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/apr/15/dalai-lama-and-desmond-tutu-collaborate-on-book-of-joy)
10. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020- include, given this source?*

**Source B: “On Virtue and Happiness,” from Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill**

1. *What is utilitarianism?*
2. *What are some significant criticisms of utilitarianism, and how does the utilitarian respond?*
3. *What is the strongest objection to utilitarianism?*
4. [*To what degree can a society be truly happy if the actions of the majority of its individuals are based on rational choice?*](https://www.researchgate.net/topic/post/To_what_degree_can_a_society_be_truly_happy_if_the_actions_of_the_majority_of_its_individuals_are_based_on_rational_choice)
5. *Read:* [https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/health/pain-relief-and-euthanasia-–-fine-line-between-life-and-death](https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/health/pain-relief-and-euthanasia-%E2%80%93-fine-line-between-life-and-death)
6. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020- include, given this source?*

**Source C: “High income improves evaluation of life but not emotional well-being,” from Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA (PNAS)**

1. *What issues does the author seem to be concerned about? What importance does the author assign to those issues?*
2. *What is the author’s hypothesis?*
3. *What does the author say about other people’s research?*
4. *What evidence does the author choose to look at to determine whether the hypothesis is supported or not?*
5. *What data was collected? How is it used?*
6. *What were the author’s findings?*
7. *Did the author analyze what they initially said they would analyze (see your response to the first question)? Does the article meet its objectives?*
8. *What does the author recommend as a result of their findings? Do their recommendations fit with what their research found?*
9. *Does the author address the problems or limitations of their research methods? If so, what flaws or limitations do they mention?*
10. *Read:* [*https://www.euronews.com/2020/01/09/japanese-billionaire-giving-away-9m-twitter-followers-social-experiment-n1112951*](https://www.euronews.com/2020/01/09/japanese-billionaire-giving-away-9m-twitter-followers-social-experiment-n1112951)
11. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020- include, given this source?*

**Source D: “Big Daddy’s Last Dance” video**



1. *Read: https://www.avalonfuneralplans.com/blog/happy-funeral-songs/*
2. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020- include, given this source?*

**Source E: “Genes, Economics, and Happiness” from Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics**

1. *What issues does the author seem to be concerned about? What importance does the author assign to those issues?*
2. *What is the author’s hypothesis?*
3. *What does the author say about other people’s research?*
4. *What evidence does the author choose to look at to determine whether the hypothesis is supported or not?*
5. *What data was collected? How is it used?*
6. *What were the author’s findings?*
7. *Did the author analyze what they initially said they would analyze (see your response to the first question)? Does the article meet its objectives?*
8. *What does the author recommend as a result of their findings? Do their recommendations fit with what their research found?*
9. *Does the author address the problems or limitations of their research methods? If so, what flaws or limitations do they mention?*
10. *Read:* [*https://positivepsychology.com/is-happiness-genetic/*](https://positivepsychology.com/is-happiness-genetic/)
11. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020- include, given this source?*

**Source F: The Story of An Hour” by Kate Chopin**

*1. What is the nature of Mrs. Mallard's "heart trouble," and why would the author mention it in the first paragraph? Is there any way in which this might be considered symbolic or ironic?*

*2. The setting of the story is very limited; it is confined largely to a room, a staircase, and a front door. How does this limitation help to express the themes of the story?*

*3. In what ways is this passage significant? "She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which some one was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves." What kinds of sensory images does this passage contain, and what senses does it address? What does the vision through the open window mean to her? Where else does she taste, smell, or touch something intangible in the story?*

*4. What kind of relationships do the Mallards have? Is Brently Mallard unkind to Louise Mallard, or is there some other reason for her saying "free, free, free!" when she hears of his death? How does she feel about him?*

*5. Mrs. Mallard closes the door to her room so that her sister Josephine cannot get in, yet she leaves the window open. Why does Chopin make a point of telling the reader this? How might this relate to the idea of being "free" and to the implicit idea that she is somehow imprisoned? Do other words in the story relate to this idea?*

*6. What does Josephine represent in the story? What does Richards represent?*

*7. Mrs. Mallard is described as descending the stairs "like a goddess of Victory." In what ways does she feel herself victorious?*

*8. The last line of the story is this: "When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease-of joy that kills." In what ways is this an ironic statement? What is gained by having the doctors make such a statement rather than putting it in the mouths of Josephine or Richards?*

*9. What view of marriage does the story present? The story was published in 1894; does it only represent attitudes toward marriage in the nineteenth century, or could it equally apply to attitudes about marriage today?*

*10. If this is, in some sense, a story about a symbolic journey, where does Mrs. Mallard "travel"?*

*11*. *Read:* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/dying-people-happy-terminal-illness-study-cancer-als-death-north-carolina-a7768636.html>

*12. What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020 include, given this source?*

**Source G:** The Happiness Project,” from The New York Times Style Magazine by Andrew O’Hagan

1. *From whose point of view was this article written?*
2. *What is the main idea of this article?*
3. *What is the most important information in the article? (Line of reasoning?)*
4. *What is the main assumption(s) underlying the authors’ thinking is? (What is the author taking for granted? That might be questioned?)*
5. *What consequences are likely to follow if people take the authors’ line of reasoning seriously?*
6. *What are your reactions to this argument? Are you convinced? Why or why not?*
7. *How does the author establish authority/credibility?*
8. *How does the author’s overall style aid their argument? (Think about the overall tone, how the authors form sentences or choose words, the length of passages, etc. Cite specific examples.)*
9. *Watch:* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuAHfJyWROB4XRReS43EWUw>
10. *What themes might the Stimulus Material 2019-2020 include, given this source?*

**C. Ms. Rubin’s Notes about Individual Written Argument (2000 words)**

* Read and analyze the provided stimulus materials to identify thematic connections among the sources and possible areas for inquiry.
* Compose a research question of your own prompted by analysis of the stimulus materials.
* Gather information from a range of additional sources representing a variety of perspectives, including scholarly work.
* Analyze, evaluate, and select evidence. Interpret the evidence to develop a well-reasoned argument that answers the research question and conveys your perspective.
* Compose a coherent, convincing and well-written argument in which you:
* Identify and explain the relationship of your inquiry to a theme or connection among at least two of the stimulus materials prompted by your reading.
* Incorporate at least one of the stimulus materials.
* Include a variety of perspectives.
* Include evidence from a range of sources.
* Establish an argument that links claims and evidence.
* Provide specific resolutions, conclusions and/or solutions.
* Evaluate objections, limitations or competing perspectives and arguments.
* Cite all sources that you have used, including the stimulus materials, and include a list of works cited or a bibliography.
* Use correct grammar and style.
* Do a word count and keep under the 2000-word limit

